

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Final Results of Cereal and Hay Harvest, 1955-56.

Seasonal Conditions. The average rainfall over the agricultural areas for the crop growing period April-November was 15.77 inches compared with the mean of 12.36 inches for the previous 50 years during which time this season's average has been exceeded only in 6 years, the maximum being 17.97 inches in 1916. The wheat yield per acre during each of the last 10 seasons has exceeded the mean yield of 11.45 bushels of the last 51 years, but in only 5 of those 10 seasons has the rainfall exceeded the 51 years mean. For the 10 seasons as a whole, an average of 15.94 bushels of wheat per acre has been obtained from an average rainfall of 12.97 inches. During the previous 41 seasons, the respective figures were - wheat 10.66 bushels per acre and rainfall 12.30 inches. Although the rainfall for the past 10 seasons is only 5½% more than during the previous 41, the average wheat yield has increased by 50%.

Generally speaking harvesting conditions were good and actual yields were close to expectations. The yield of wheat is 28,891,524 bushels compared with the January estimate of 29,500,000; barley 24,597,979 compared with 24,500,000; oats 7,280,340 compared with 7,500,000 and field peas 584,320 compared with 525,000 bushels.

The total yield of wheat, barley and oats combined was 60,769,843 bushels from 3,075,861 acres and has been exceeded only in 2 other seasons. The record combined yield was 66,486,793 bushels from 2,850,633 acres in 1952/53.

In 1953-54, the combined yield of barley and oats exceeded that of wheat for the first time, and it did so again for 1955-56, though not for 1954-55.

NOTE:- The 1955-56 particulars are shown hereunder with those for 1954-55 in parentheses. For statistical purposes, the weight of bags is not counted as grain.

WHEAT:- The yield of 28,891,524 (31,462,737) bushels averaged 17.96 (18.63) bushels per acre from an area of 1,609,029 (1,689,103) acres including any areas failed. Including wheat for hay and green forage, the total area was 1,678,298 (1,766,539) acres.

WHEAT AND FALLOW:- On fallowed land 1,074,661 acres of wheat produced 20,689,669 bushels averaging 19.25 bushels per acre. On not fallowed land, there were 534,368 acres with 8,201,855 bushels averaging 15.35 bushels. The average yields the previous season were 20.81 bushels on fallow land and 13.20 on land not fallowed.

BARLEY:- The yield totalled 24,597,979 (18,376,283) bushels and the average per acre was 23.61 (18.02). 23,397,357 bushels were reported to be 2 row and 1,200,622 bushels 6 row. The acreage for grain was 1,041,806 (1,019,673) and for all purposes 1,067,661 (1,057,818).

OATS:- The yield totalled 7,280,340 (4,508,117) bushels and the average per acre was 17.13 (13.27). The acreage for grain was 425,026 (339,640) acres and for all purposes 841,936 (767,581). Both the areas and yields were records.

CEREALS ETC. USED ON FARMS:- Farmers reported that they used the following quantities of cereals, etc. on their farms during the twelve months ended March, 1956. For seed - wheat 1,965,282, Barley 1,350,485 and Oats 1,014,574 bushels. For feed for livestock and poultry - Wheat 886,188, Barley 812,326, Oats 1,757,577 bushels, and Hay and Chaff 215,076 tons. Of the wheat produced in 1955-56 it was reported that 1,630,198 bushels were retained on the farms for seed and 637,740 bushels for feed.

RYE:- For 1955-56 there were 45,350 (48,277) acres under rye of which 37,418 (37,891) acres were for grain yielding 193,330 (178,650) bushels.

FIELD PEAS:- 584,320 (419,194) bushels from 34,298 (35,280) acres. 3,713 acres of field peas were fed off. Approximately the same area as in 1955-56 was intended to be sown for 1956-57.

HAY:- 325,673 (256,525) acres were cut for hay, wheaten being 61,524 (68,242) and oaten 139,325 (125,772) acres. The total yield was 460,821 (329,618) tons, wheaten being 91,422 (99,819) and oaten 191,767 (146,583). Average tons per acre were 1.41 (1.28).

ACREAGES:- The following table shows the total areas under wheat, barley and oats for all purposes, (grain, hay or green fodder) for 1930-31 - the maximum year; for 1943-44 - the lowest areas in recent years; for each of the last five seasons, and for 1956-57 representing the areas that farmers indicated they intended to sow when particulars of the recent harvest were being collected during the autumn. It has been reported by the Department of Agriculture that the wet winter would result in decreased acreages of wheat and increased acreages of barley being sown. It is noted that the combined areas under wheat, barley and oats have been showing a slight upward movement in recent years.

Season		Wheat	Barley	Oats	Total
1930-31	Acres	4,507,213	267,369	519,300	5,293,882
1943-44	"	1,675,778	304,382	558,065	2,538,225
1951-52	"	1,687,897	858,464	316,418	3,362,779
1952-53	"	1,601,438	953,572	699,750	3,254,760
1953-54	"	1,603,914	1,144,397	700,325	3,448,636
1954-55	"	1,766,539	1,057,818	767,581	3,591,938
1955-56	"	1,678,298	1,067,661	841,936	3,587,895
1956-57	"	1,559,630	1,258,201	1,016,533	3,834,364

Prior to 1952-53, the total area under wheat for all purposes exceeded the combined areas of barley and oats, but from 1952-53 onwards the combined barley and oats areas have exceeded that for wheat.

VARIETIES SOWN:- Particulars of the acreages sown with the principal varieties of wheat, barley and oats are being published separately.

THE ATTACHED STATEMENTS show details of 1955-56 crops in Statistical Divisions and also the 1955-56 totals compared with the five previous seasons.

A. W. BOWDEN.

GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Statistical Office,
ADELAIDE.

19th September, 1956.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
FINAL RESULTS OF CEREALS AND HAY, 1955-56.

Divisions	Total Cereals, Peas, Hay & Green Fodder	AREA FOR GRAIN			Hay Total	Green Fodder
		Wheat	Barley	Oats		
Central	880,061	277,424	345,790	53,268	129,756	51,837
Lower North	818,811	414,279	202,926	76,687	59,332	54,934
Upper North	141,674	95,974	17,302	10,708	13,216	3,863
South Eastern	151,043	24,757	24,282	35,565	51,222	14,906
Western	1,135,985	522,275	209,300	189,397	40,672	171,276
Murray Mallee	684,847	274,320	242,206	59,401	31,475	42,355
Total 1955/56	3,812,421	1,609,029	1,041,806	425,026	325,673	339,171
Total 1954/55	3,741,504	1,689,103	1,019,673	339,640	256,525	363,392
Increase	70,917	- 80,074	22,133	85,386	69,148	- 24,221

2. PRODUCTION OF GRAIN AND HAY

Division	GRAIN						Hay Total Tons	
	WHEAT		BARLEY		OATS			
	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.	Bush.	Aver.		
Central	5,267,573	18.99	9,383,941	27.14	1,009,817	18.96	195,100	
Lower North	9,192,239	22.19	5,599,078	27.59	1,702,335	22.20	81,173	
Upper North	1,947,192	20.29	350,420	20.25	217,401	20.30	16,772	
South Eastern	555,095	22.42	559,981	23.06	817,506	22.99	84,346	
Western	8,852,352	16.95	4,773,914	22.81	2,914,810	15.39	52,762	
Murray Mallee	3,077,073	11.22	3,930,645	16.23	618,471	10.41	30,668	
Total 1955/56	28,891,524	17.96	24,597,979	23.61	7,280,340	17.13	460,821	
Total 1954/55	31,462,737	18.63	18,376,283	18.02	4,508,117	13.27	329,618	
Increase	-2,571,213	- .67	6,221,696	5.59	2,772,223	3.86	131,203	

3. FIVE YEARS' COMPARISON

Year	WHEAT			Rainfall Agric. April - Nov.	BARLEY		OATS
	Area	Yield	Aver per Acre		Bush.	Inches	
	Acres	Bush.	Bush.	Inches	Bush.	Bush.	Bush.
1950-51	1,847,791	30,936,044	16.74	11.21	16,727,030		3,533,333
1951-52	1,613,126	27,300,839	16.92	16.10	16,825,996		5,404,927
1952-53	1,543,762	33,918,689	21.97	15.19	25,901,684		6,666,420
1953-54	1,528,377	30,409,231	19.90	12.62	28,491,293		4,320,758
1954-55	1,689,103	31,462,737	18.63	10.88	18,376,283		4,508,117
Mean	1,644,432	30,805,508	18.73	13.20	21,264,457		4,886,711
1955-56	1,609,029	28,891,524	17.96	15.77	24,597,979		7,280,340

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